

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 1. (Cancelled)

1 2. (Currently Amended) A mail piece tracking system including:

2 A. one or more servers that perform the operations of:

3 i. receiving delivery status information from one or more mail piece
4 delivery companies and linking the mail piece delivery status in-
5 formation with respective user identifiers,

6 ii. receiving one or more messages from the senders of the respective
7 mail pieces and linking to the delivery status information an at-
8 tachment consisting of the one or more messages from the senders
9 of the mail pieces,

10 iii. producing listings of the delivery status information for the mail
11 pieces directed to respective users that are associated with the user
12 identifiers, and

13 iv. including links to the respective ~~associated~~ messages in the listings
14 of the delivery status information; and

15 B. one or more browsers or client executables through which the respective
16 users associated with the user identifiers access the delivery status infor-
17 mation and the links to the respective ~~associated~~ messages.

1 3. (Withdrawn) A mail piece tracking system including:

2 A. one or more servers for linking mail piece delivery status information with
3 user identifiers, associating with the delivery status information for a
4 given mail piece related transaction information, producing listings of the
5 delivery status information for mail pieces directed to the respective users,
6 and including a link to the transaction information in the listing of the de-
7 livery status information;

8 B. one or more browsers or client executables through which the respective
9 users associated with the user identifiers access the delivery status infor-
10 mation.

1 4. (Currently Amended) A mail piece tracking system including:

2 A. one or more servers the perform the operations of:
3 i. receiving delivery status information from one or more mail piece
4 delivery companies and linking the mail piece delivery status in-
5 information with respective user identifiers,
6 ii. receiving information relating to the contents of the respective mail
7 pieces from the senders of the mail pieces and linking to the deliv-
8 ery status information an attachment consisting of the information
9 relating to the contents of the respective mail pieces,
10 iii. producing respective listings of the delivery status information for
11 mail pieces directed to respective users that are associated with the
12 user identifiers, and
13 iv. associating the information relating to the contents of the respective
14 mail pieces with the mail piece delivery status information in the
15 listings; and
16 B. one or more browsers or client executables through which the respective
17 users associated with the user identifiers access the delivery status infor-
18 mation and the ~~associated~~ information relating to the contents of the re-
19 spective mail pieces.

1 5. – 6. (Cancelled)

1 7. (Withdrawn) A mail piece tracking system including:

2 A. one or more servers for linking mail piece delivery status information with
3 user identifiers producing listings of the delivery status information for

4 mail pieces directed to the respective users, and including in the mail piece
5 delivery status information:

- 6 i. a sender identifier,
- 7 ii. a mail type identifier,
- 8 iii. a delivery service identifier, and
- 9 iv. links to on-line information provided by or associated with the
10 sender.

1 8. (Cancelled)

- 1 9. (Withdrawn) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 10 wherein
- 2 A. the step of linking mail piece delivery status information to the user identi-
3 fiers includes updating the information, and
 - 4 B. the step of providing a listing of mail piece delivery status information in-
5 cludes providing in the list the updated information.

- 1 10. (Withdrawn) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps
2 of:
- 3 A. associating respective users with user identifiers;
 - 4 B. associating with the identified users mail pieces directed to or sent by the
5 respective users;
 - 6 C. linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective
7 mail pieces to the respective user identifiers, the delivery status informa-
8 tion including information that identifies the senders of the respective mail
9 pieces that are directed to the identified users; and
 - 10 D. providing to a given user a listing of the respective mail pieces and the
11 mail piece delivery status information that is linked to the user identifier
12 that corresponds to the given user.

1 11. (Withdrawn) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 10 wherein
2 the step of linking mail piece delivery status information with the user identifiers includes
3 associating therewith messages from the respective senders.

1 12. (Cancelled)

1 13. (Withdrawn) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 11 wherein
2 the step of linking mail piece delivery status information to the user identifiers includes
3 associating therewith messages from the respective delivery services.

1 14.-19. (Cancelled)

1 20. (Withdrawn) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps of:
2 A. associating respective users with user identifiers;
3 B. associating with the identified users respective mail pieces directed to or
4 sent by the respective users;
5 C. linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective
6 mail pieces to the respective user identifiers, the mail piece delivery status
7 information including the source of a given mail piece; and
8 D. providing to a given user a listing of the respective mail pieces associated
9 with the given user and the mail piece delivery status information that is
10 linked to the user identifier that is associated with the given user and fur-
11 ther providing a graphical interface connected to notify the given user of
12 the delivery status of the respective mail pieces, the interface being con-
13 figured to display information concerning the source of a given mail piece.

1 21. (Currently Amended) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including
2 the steps of:

3 A. associating respective users with user identifiers;

- 4 B. associating with the respective users mail pieces directed to or sent by the
5 respective users;
- 6 C. receiving mail piece delivery status information from one or more mail
7 piece delivery companies and linking the mail piece delivery status infor-
8 mation relating to the respective mail pieces to the respective user identifi-
9 ers that are associated with the users to which the mail pieces are associ-
10 ated,
- 11 D. receiving information concerning the contents of the respective mail
12 pieces from the senders of the respective mail pieces and linking to the de-
13 livery status information an attachment consisting of the information con-
14 cerning the contents of the respective mail pieces; and
- 15 E. providing a graphical interface connected to notify the respective users of
16 the delivery status of the respective mail pieces, the interface being con-
17 figured to:
- 18 i. provide the mail piece delivery status information that is linked to
19 the user identifiers that are associated with the respective users, and
20 ii. provide to the respective users the associated information concern-
21 ing the contents of the respective mail pieces.

1 22. (Currently Amended) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including
2 the steps of:

- 3 A. associating respective users with respective user identifiers;
- 4 B. associating with the respective users respective mail pieces directed to or
5 sent by the respective users;
- 6 C. receiving mail piece delivery status information from one or more mail
7 piece delivery companies and linking the mail piece delivery status infor-
8 mation relating to the respective mail pieces to the respective user identifi-
9 ers that are associated with the users to which the mail pieces are associ-
10 ated;

- 11 D. receiving images of at least a portion of the contents of the respective mail
12 pieces from the respective senders and linking to the delivery status in-
13 formation an attachment consisting of the images of at least a portion of
14 the contents of the respective mail pieces; and
- 15 E. providing to respective users listings of the respective mail pieces and the
16 mail piece delivery status information that are linked to the user identifiers
17 that correspond to the respective users; and
- 18 F. providing a graphical interface connected to:
19 i. notify the respective users of the delivery status of the associated re-
20 spective mail pieces, and
21 ii. provide to the users the ~~associated~~ images of at least a portion of the
22 contents of the respective mail pieces.

- 1 23. (Currently Amended) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including
2 the steps of:
- 3 A. associating respective users with respective user identifiers;
4 B. associating with the users respective mail pieces directed to or sent by the
5 respective users;
6 C. receiving mailpiece delivery status information from respective mail piece
7 delivery companies and linking the mail piece delivery status information
8 relating to the respective mail pieces to the respective user identifiers,
9 D. receiving images of information associated with respective mail pieces
10 from respective senders and linking to the delivery status information an
11 attachment consisting of the images of information associated with respec-
12 tive mail pieces; and
- 13 E. providing to respective users listings of the respective mail pieces and the
14 mail piece delivery status information that are linked to the user identifiers
15 that correspond to the respective users,
16 F. providing a graphical interface connected to:

- 17 i. notify the respective users of the delivery status of the associated re-
18 spective mail pieces, and
19 ii. provide to the users the images of information associated with the
20 respective mail pieces.

1 24. (Currently Amended) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 23
2 in which one or more messages from the senders or the mail delivery companies are re-
3 ceived and the interface is further configured to provide the one or more messages asso-
4 ciated with the respective mail pieces.

1 25 (Withdrawn) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps of:
2 A. associating respective users with respective user identifiers;
3 B. associating with the identified users respective mail pieces directed to or
4 sent by the respective users;
5 C. linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the associated re-
6 spective mail pieces to the respective user identifiers, the mail piece deliv-
7 ery status information including one or more links to information provided
8 by senders of the respective mail pieces; and
9 D. providing to a given user a listing of the associated respective mail pieces
10 and the mail piece delivery status information that is linked to the user
11 identifier that corresponds to the given user and providing a graphical in-
12 terface connected to notify the given user of the delivery status of the as-
13 sociated respective mail pieces, the interface being configured to provide
14 one or more links to the information provided by a sender of a given mail
15 piece.

1 26. (Withdrawn) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 25 wherein
2 the information provided by the sender includes one or more of transaction history, ac-
3 count balance, and payment option information.

1 27. (Cancelled)

1 28. (Currently Amended) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program
2 instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when
3 executed causing:

4 A. one or more servers to:

5 i. receive mail piece delivery status information from respective mail
6 delivery companies and link the mail piece delivery status informa-
7 tion with user identifiers,

8 ii. receive messages from the senders of the respective mail pieces
9 and link to the delivery status information an attachment consisting
10 of the messages from the senders of the respective mail pieces,

11 iii. produce listings of the delivery status information for mail pieces
12 directed to the respective users that correspond to the user identifi-
13 ers, and

14 iv. provide links to the messages in the listings of the delivery status
15 information; and

16 B. one or more browsers to provide to the respective users associated with the
17 user identifiers access to the listings of the delivery status information and
18 the linked messages.

1 29. (Currently Amended) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program
2 instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when
3 executed causing:

4 A. one or more servers to:

5 i. receive mail piece delivery status information from respective mail
6 delivery companies and link the mail piece delivery status informa-
7 tion with user identifiers,

- 8 ii. receive sender transaction information from respective senders of
9 the mail pieces and link the sender transaction information to the
10 delivery status information-~~sender transaction information~~,
11 iii. produce listings of the delivery status information for mail pieces
12 directed to the respective users that correspond to the user identifi-
13 ers, and
14 iii. associate the links to the transaction information with the listings of
15 the delivery status information.
- 16 B. one or more browsers to provide access to the delivery status information
17 linked to a given user identifier and also to links to the ~~related~~ transaction
18 information that associated with the delivery status information.

1 30. (Currently Amended) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program
2 instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when
3 executed causing:

- 4 A. one or more servers to:
 - 5 i. receive mail piece delivery status information from respective mail
6 delivery companies and link mail piece delivery status information
7 with user identifiers,
 - 8 ii. receive information relating to the contents of the respective mail
9 pieces from the respective senders and link to the delivery status
10 information an attachment consisting of the information relating to
11 the contents of the respective mail pieces,
 - 12 iii. produce listings of the mail piece delivery status information for
13 mail pieces directed to the respective users that correspond to the
14 user identifiers, and
 - 15 iv. include in the listings the ~~associated~~ information relating to the
16 contents of the respective mail pieces; and

- 17 B. one or more browsers to provide access to the delivery status information
18 linked to a given user identifier and further to provide access to the associ-
19 ated information relating to the contents of the mail pieces.

1 31. (Cancelled)

1 32. (Withdrawn) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program instruc-
2 tions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when executed
3 causing:

- 4 A. one or more servers to
5 link mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers, the deliv-
6 ery status information for a given mail piece including
7 i. a sender identifier,
8 ii. a mail type identifier,
9 iii. a delivery service identifier, and
10 iv. related messages from the sender and the delivery service, and
11 v. produce listings of the delivery status information for mail pieces
12 directed to the respective users that correspond to the user identifi-
13 ers; and
14 B. one or more browsers to provide access to the delivery status information
15 linked to a given user identifier

1 33. (Cancelled)

1 34 (Withdrawn) A method of operating a computer system, the method including the
2 steps of:

- 3 A. associating a given user session with a user identifier;
4 B. retaining messages relating to the status of the session at a server and includ-
5 ing in each message a message sequence number and an attribute that is asso-
6 ciated with the user identifier; and

- 7 C. using the messages to continue the session from a point at which the session
8 last communicated with the server, in response to the user identifier being pre-
9 sented at a node that communicates with the server.

1 35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34 further including a step of maintaining an
2 index of the messages, the index being sorted by the attribute that is associated with the
3 user identifier.

1 36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 further including:

- 2 A. a step of communicating through the session and providing information
3 relating to a mailing label;
4 B. in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the in-
5 formation relating to the mailing label;
6 C. in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information
7 relating to the mailing label; and
8 D. a step of ending the session by printing the mailing label in accordance
9 with the retained information.

1 37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36 further including:

- 2 A. in the step of communicating through the session providing information
3 relating to postage for a mail piece;
4 B. in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the informa-
5 tion relating to the postage;
6 C. in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information relat-
7 ing to the postage; and
8 D. in the step of ending the session printing the postage in accordance with the
9 retained information.

1 38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35 further including:
2 A. a step of communicating through the session and providing information
3 relating to postage for a mail piece;
4 B. in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the in-
5 formation relating to the postage;
6 C. in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information
7 relating to the postage; and
8 D. a step of ending the session by printing the postage in accordance with the
9 retained information.

1 39. (Withdrawn) A method of operating a computer network including the steps of:
2 A. associating a user session with a user identifier that is presented to gain
3 access to information maintained by the network from a first node that
4 communicates with the network;
5 B. retaining a queue of messages relating to the user session and associating
6 the queue with the user identifier; and
7 C. in response to the user identifier being later presented at the first node or a
8 second node that communicates over the network, continuing the user
9 session at the first or second node by using the messages to present the
10 session at the point at which the session last communicated with the
11 server.

1 40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36 wherein the step of retaining a queue of
2 messages includes indexing the messages by the user identifier.

1 41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 37 wherein the step of retaining a queue of
2 messages further includes maintaining the queue at each of a plurality of interconnected
3 nodes, a given one of the interconnected nodes at which the user identifier is provided

4 presenting the user session at the point at which the session last communicated with the
5 server.

1 42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 further including conducting the user ses-
2 sion by communicating over the network using a browser or a client executable.

1 43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 37 wherein the step of presenting the user
2 identifier includes providing a machine-readable code to a scanner that communicates
3 with the node.

1 44. (Withdrawn) A method of operating a postal service computer system, the
2 method including the steps of:

- 3 A. associating a given user postal mailing label session with a user identifier;
- 4 B. retaining messages relating to the status of the session at a server and in-
5 cluding in each message a message sequence number and an attribute that
6 is associated with the user identifier, the messages further including mail-
7 ing label information provided through the session; and
- 8 C. using the messages to continue the session from a point at which the ses-
9 sion last communicated with the server by presenting the mailing label in-
10 formation provided through the session, in response to the user identifier
11 being presented at a node that communicates with the server.

1 45. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 44 further including a step of maintaining an
2 index of the messages, the index being sorted by the attribute that is associated with the
3 user identifier.

1 46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45 further including the step of ending the
2 continued session by printing the mailing label in accordance with the retained informa-
3 tion.

1 47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46 further including
2 A. in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the in-
3 formation relating to postage;
4 B. in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information
5 relating to the postage; and
6 C. in the step of ending the session printing the postage in accordance with
7 the retained information.